



The Hong Kong Academy
for
Performing Arts
香港演藝學院



SCHOOL OF DRAMA

> *If sleep is the apogee of physical relaxation, boredom is the apogee of mental relaxation. Boredom is the dream bird that hatches the egg of experience.*

– Walter Benjamin

I'M GOOD AT ENTERING
THE STATE OF BEING BORED

VISION AND MISSION

We are a practice-oriented drama school for theatre practitioners, aiming at nurturing creativity built upon the foundation of experience. Through practical experience, ideas gestate. We ponder life and the state of the world; we discern beauty and evil, gains and losses. Then we construct narratives illuminating the profundity of human nature, engaging in dialogue with our times, searching for life's core values and making contributions to the society. We are forward-looking, standing at the cultural crossroads of China and the West, and keeping abreast with the development of world theatre. We select and foster the best of the best, guiding the new creators of the 21st century theatre.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Martial artists recognise the futility of “stressing combat technique while neglecting foundation skills”. The same can be applied to theatre practitioners. Theatre professionals must possess a solid technical foundation. Students should have unwavering dedication, self-discipline and fortitude as they are trained in multiple areas: stage presence, body movement, speech delivery, musical proficiency for actors; stage aesthetics, the language of theatre and leadership skills for directors. They must accumulate experience and knowledge step by step, delving into different schools and genres of contemporary theatre.

Our students benefit from the comprehensive approach of the School. They are enrolled in a wide range of courses designed to craft all-round professionals. Our offerings include script analysis, applied theatre, dramaturgy, interdisciplinary projects, theatre history, literature and criticism, for nurturing students’ integrated competencies. We impart knowledge by putting into practice in our rehearsal studios and large and small theatres. We also arrange internships in professional theatre companies and organise overseas performances and workshops. All our pursuit provides fertile training ground for our students.



GLOBALISATION

Welcoming the World

Taking advantage of Hong Kong's matchless geographical location, the School maintains close relationships with numerous internationally renowned artists. Over the recent years, we have invited the following luminaries to our school:

- French musical master Claude-Michel Schönberg spoke about his creative works; two professors from London's Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, Neil Rutherford and Eddie Gower, coached students on musical theatre vocal technique.
- Celebrated Canadian stage director Robert Lepage gave a public talk on the occasion of his appearance at the Hong Kong Arts Festival.
- Various demonstrations and workshops were hosted by solo theatre artist Shoko Ito (Japan), Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards (Italy), mask artist and expert Mariana Araoz (France), performing artist Tian Mansha (China), Voice Studies Professor Richard Armstrong of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (US), Bárbara Santos, an expert of the Theatre of the Oppressed, Florian Borchmeyer, Head of Dramaturgy, Schaubühne Berlin (Germany), and Stefan Bläske, Head of Dramaturgy, Nederlands Toneel Gent (Belgium).

An All-embracing Approach

In addition to their teaching duties, our faculty members are active in international conferences and workshops. Over the recent years, our teaching staff have participated in the ATEC 11th International Forum at the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing (China), the Symposium on Research-based Theatre at The University of British Columbia (Canada), the Social/Political in Drama and Theatre Education Conference at Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), the 9th Estill World Voice Symposium in London (UK), the Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts Conference organised by International Theatre Institute of UNESCO, the Devised Theatre and Performance Workshop organised by International Training and Research Centre for Theatre and Performance Makers, the Breathing, Support and Estill Model Workshop in Sydney (Australia), the Asian Dramaturgs' Network Conference 2019 (Singapore) and the Asia Playwrights Festival in Incheon (Korea) among others.

Moreover, the School collaborated with Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District in organising a three-year Dramaturgy and Beyond programme, inviting distinguished theatre practitioners to Hong Kong to host workshops and talks. All our efforts are directed to bringing home the world's most advanced theatrical concepts and pedagogy and building an unrivalled curriculum to connect our students with the world.



Experiencing the World

Every year, the School handpicks fine productions and plans overseas and Mainland China tours, creating opportunities for exchange performances. Students are also selected to take part in programmes at such institutions as Chung-Ang University (Korea), Shanghai Theatre Academy (China), Mozarteum University Salzburg (Austria), Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (UK), Texas Tech University (US) and Odin Teatret (Denmark). Through these activities, our students not only enhance their professional skills but also expand their cultural horizons, further enriching their creative prowess.



CAREER PROSPECTS

The theatre and stage are the foundations that constitute our roots.

Our branches extend to film, television, radio, new media and artistic conduits as yet developed. We can also easily transfer to theme parks, self-media and theatre education. Our graduates have joined professional theatre companies or taken various roles in television and film. Others have dedicated themselves to education. Even more have chosen to be freelance practitioners or “slashies”, deftly adapting and combining their roles as actors, directors, playwrights, arts administrators and impresarios, forging unique careers and opening up new vistas.

Artistic creativity and entrepreneurial spirit are our mottos.

SCHOOL OF DRAMA - PROGRAMME

Master of Fine Arts in Drama

Major Study

- > Directing
- > Playwriting
- > Drama and Theatre Education
- > Dramaturgy

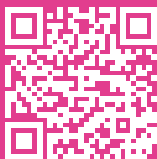
Bachelor of Fine Arts (Honours) in Drama

Major Study

- > Acting for Drama
- > Acting for Musical Theatre
- > Applied Theatre
- > Directing
- > Dramaturgy

Diploma in Drama Foundations


(Feeder programme to Undergraduate Programme)



Admission & Audition

PROGRAMMES ENQUIRY

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